
 HTC creative interfacing products	103 Eisenhower Parkway Roseland, NJ 07068 Phone: 973-618-9380 Toll Free: 888-618-2555 Fax: 973-618-9381 http://www.htc-inc.net	

Quilt-Fuse™ Fusible Nonwoven Layout Grid

By popular demand, HTC Inc. has expanded its line of specialty quilting products. You now have the choice of 1.5" and 2" QUILT-FUSE™. This sheer, fusible, nonwoven has a printed 1 1/2" or 2" grid. Quilt-Fuse™ simplifies the layout and design process for projects like watercolor and bargello quilting, techniques that rely on careful placement of fabric squares to



create artistic visual effects, especially when viewed from a distance. Quilt-Fuse™ acts as a design board when fabric squares cling to it, even in a vertical position. Quilters can evaluate and adjust works-in-progress before the fabrics are fused and stitched in place.

Once the design is finalized, the fabrics are lightly fused into place and simply stitched in long, continuous rows, assuming that all fabric squares will line up perfectly. Quilt-Fuse™ now acts as a lightweight stabilizer, perfect for wall hangings and apparel applications. The quilter can control the degree of stability or softness by how firmly the fabrics are fused. A light tack with the iron holds swatches securely enough to be sewn, while a longer fusing time will result in a slightly firmer, more permanent hold. After all rows are stitched, the piece is ready for finishing as a quilt, wallhanging, garment or other project. The new 1.5" size represents the next design challenge in watercolor quilting, perfect for classic watercolor designs as well as postage stamp and intricate portrait quilt projects. Quilt-Fuse™ is washable and dry-cleanable.

75% Rayon, 25% Polyester

Style #3240 2" grid, 25 yards x 48" wide

Style #3245 1.5" grid, 25 yards x 48" wide

Style #5520 2" grid, 1 yard x 48" package

Style #5525 1.5" grid, 1 yard x 48" package

One of our favorite sources for watercolor quilting supplies is Whims, located in Eugene, OR. Whims carries complete kits, including patterns, instructions and pre-cut 2" fabric squares. Pattern scenes include a birdbath, landscape, cityscape, hearts and others. They also sell these components separately, and now offer 2" fabric strips as well as the squares. The combination of HTC Quilt-Fuse™ and the Whims line is perfect for the beginner and experienced watercolor quilter alike.

Check their website at www.whims.cc

E-mail: whims@continent.com

Phone: 541-687-7070,

Fax: 541-431-0458

Armo Cotton / Wool Fleece

For the quilting purist, HTC, Inc. offers **Armo Cotton/Wool Fleece**. With Armo Cotton/Wool Fleece, quilters enjoy the soft, pliable hand of 80% cotton and the added benefit of 20% wool in a natural color, mid-loft fleece. The wool fibers are needled through a thin polyester scrim, so there are no stiff resins or irritating chemical binders. Quilters who are allergic to synthetic fibers will also appreciate this natural blend for bed quilts and clothing.

Like all natural fiber products, it should be pre-washed by hand for best results. This step removes any oils in the cotton hull remnants. With just a few easy steps, quilters are assured of success with this quality fleece.

Retailers and consumers will love the economical 45" width as it easily accomodates all bed size quilts with minimal piecing. It is perfect as well for clothing applications. **Style # 9740.**



Fun-dation™ Quilt Piecing Material

Foundation piecing is the current technique of choice for a growing number of quilters. By stitching fabric scraps to a printed foundation material, quilters of any skill level can quickly and accurately complete more intricate quilt block designs. This time-saving technique also allows quilters to use up small and odd-shaped fabric scraps. In response to this revolutionary creative trend, **HTC-Inc.** has created **Fun-dation**, a nonwoven foundation piecing material. Fun-dation is a lightweight, translucent tear-away material with several distinct advantages over the standard paper, tissue paper and muslin foundations:



- Compared to typing paper, it allows the quilter to see through to the fabric layers, for easier fabric positioning, with less flipping back-and-forth from fabric side to foundation side. There's no need to hold projects up to a window or light box for positioning.
- **Fun-dation** is designed for the sewing machine needle, where typing, tracing paper and others not designed for sewing, will dull the machine needle.
- Unlike too-thin tissue paper, **Fun-dation** tears away only when you want it to, yet offers the same translucent qualities while tracing and stitching designs. Tissue paper foundations are known to sometimes tear prematurely, in mid-design.
- **Fun-dation** is a stable nonwoven. Since there is no stretch in any direction, designs won't distort as you're sewing through it, or tearing it away. Muslin, as a woven fabric, stretches in the bias and crosswise direction, affecting accuracy in foundation piecing.
- **Fun-dation** is available on the bolt (22" wide, Style #3250) and in die-cut 8 1/2" x 11" sheets (Style #5500), for use with laser and inkjet computer printers.

Working with noted designer Judi Kauffman, **HTC-Inc.** has developed panels to appeal to the quilter and crafter alike. Along with a set of coordinated quilt block designs are a wide variety of creative uses for the completed blocks, from table settings, wall hangings, ornaments and other home decor items to wearable art accents and fashion accessories. Each panel also provides a simple practice block to help the novice to get started successfully. Tips for fabric and color selections are also given. The panels lend themselves to retail classes and quilt group projects.



Fun-dation is easy to mark with rubber stamps, ink, hot-iron transfers and regular marking pens. Quilters can even pass it through a laser printer to copy and use the many free designs now available on quilting websites. In pieced projects where some stability is desired (such as a wall hanging), washable/dry cleanable **Fun-dation** can even be left in place, unlike paper foundations. For the hobbyist with several sewing/craft interests, **Fun-dation** works equally well as a classic tear-away backing for machine embroidery and as a basic lightweight sew-in stabilizer for general crafts.

Fun-dation is currently available in quilt shops, fabric retailers quilting catalogs nationwide.

Style #5501 - CRAZY QUILT Panel - 1 yard x 46" wide

Style #5502 - HOLIDAY Panel - 1 yard x 46" wide

Style #5503 - MINIATURES Panel - 1 yard x 46" wide

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Updated 5/31/98 2

Stabilizing-

- 1-When it's possible, run your outline stitching first-this will help stabilize your fabric even further!
- 2-I prefer layering solvy while stitching out a design to add dimension. Sometimes the "film" solvy can get a bit heavy using this technique, causing stiffness and can be difficult to remove. We've found a great "web" type that gets the job done with less stiffness and is super easy to remove! The film type soluble is still best for the base layer & I use it for every design I stitch on any fabric that water will not harm.
- 3-We've all heard the "stabilize, stabilize," To the point that I'm now seeing a lot of you over stabilizing! This creates as many problems as you're trying to eliminate and wasting \$\$\$\$\$. Don't over stabilize-use 1-2 layers of the correct stabilizer. Ask us about our commercial backings to get the best possible results for all your embroidery needs!
- 4-I always start with a commercial fusible backing in the appropriate weight for the fabric/garment I'm stitching on. We have 3 weights of fusibles in both permanent-for dense designs-and tear away. Two of them come in a generous 48" width.
- 5-If your skin is sensitive, we suggest using our soft tear away backing under a fusible layer for any garments that will lay next to the skin. The soft tear away is-- also rated by the US government-- for use in children's sleep wear & is formaldehyde free!
- 6-If you enjoy creating wearable art that's quilted, stippled or uses the trapunto technique, we have a great "fill" backing that won't make your garment look like a down jacket and is dense enough not to pull apart when it's laundered!

Needles

- 1-Always use the smallest size needle recommended for the fabric you're using. There will be fewer perforations in your backing and fabric, which will make it stronger. I use the 75/11 size for most of my stitching. If you're worried about being able to thread a smaller needle, the needles we carry have a larger eye for ease in threading!

Thread

- 1-If you're experiencing thread breakage and/or finished designs bleeding onto your garments after laundering, you're probably still using rayon thread! The polyester embroidery threads are stronger and more colorfast. Always remove your embroidered garments from the washer immediately-this will help eliminate the bleeding. For the

breakage-try lowering your tension-rayon threads are the weakest of the embroidery threads.

I've been using a commercial polyester thread-Isacord-for over a year now and getting fantastic results. Never a break and it launders beautifully time after time. The embroidery is still gorgeous even after the garment is worn out. Isacord currently has 220 colors with 80+ more out soon!

2-If you're experiencing a heavy build up on the back of your designs, try using the only pre-wound bobbin that works trouble-free in our machines. They are precision wound with 132 yds per bobbin, of continuous filament polyester, which runs with less lint. Not only do they decrease the amount of build up-I don't have to clean out my machine as often!

3-If you've given up on using metallic thread because of the breakage and other problems that are common to metallics, you haven't tried the best yet! In my opinion there's only one metallic that I'll spend my time using-Mon-Rex commercial grade metallic. It is a true 40 wt. & requires no special lubricants or other than normal tension settings. I don't use a special needle either! It comes in 21 gorgeous colors on 1000-1080 yd cones.

For the "other" brands you may want to try the following:

1-Always feed metallic thread from the side of the cone/spool or it will kink.

2-Lower the upper tension.

3-Use a larger eye needle or metallic needle.

4-Do not use any lubricants in our machines-they will ruin our auto tension disks!

Home

Following are a few tips to help you achieve better scanning and stitching results. These are a sample of what you'll find in our booklets: "Our Secrets to Successful Scanning", Drawing Your Own Scan Designs" and "Choosing Stitch Directions for Scan Designs" which are available both individually or as a set in our 24 page color catalog --\$4.00.

Scanning

1--Always scan on the darkest setting of your sensitivity dial that

Stitching

1--Never embroider using the auto tension! Most of the MC

doesn't pick up dust or gray marks on the scan card to obtain the best "fill".

2--For best fill of large section of a design, scan slowly. To see for yourself the difference your speed makes, scan the same color separation twice. Once very slowly and again a bit faster. Then commit the two to memory and view in "List" & "Parts"--note the difference in the number of stitches between the two--you'll be amazed at the higher stitch count on the slower scan. The end result will be better fill!

3--Keep a light touch when scanning to avoid raising the "nose" of the scanner. You'll get scattered parts and fewer stitches if the nose is raised.

4--To get the very most from you SSPC--Don't rule out scanning more detailed/dimensional designs--they are worth the minimal amount of time it takes to do it! Our designs have been changed to make them easier, faster and more accurate than any you've used before and all the work has been done for

9000 machines auto tensions run very tight. Try lowering by 2-3 movements and experiment to find your machine's best tension as they all vary.

2--Use a bobbin thread with the smallest diameter to avoid heavy build up on the back of the design and never use spun polyester as it will cause excess lint in the hook race.

3--To avoid thread breaks and looping, use the correct needle size and change it often--usually after every 15,000-20,000 stitches.

4--Always choose thread by content that's compatible with the fabric of your project--this is true of construction sewing and embroidery! Your finished project will keep it's beauty after laundering.

5--Never sew or embroider on any fabric until it's pre-shrunk by laundering! It will save you time and \$\$\$\$\$\$ by preventing surprises as a result of unexpected shrinking and fading.

you--including suggested tension settings. We even provide a card to take to the machine with you with order of separations, colors names & numbers and suggested tension settings!

Stabilizing

1--We only found consistence in results when we switched to commercial stabilizers and water soluble backings & toppings! We're getting unbelievable results time after time and have been able to reduce the number of different stabilizer to keep on hand to just a few instead of the stash that we had collected in the search for the ones that would produce the results we demanded.

2--Never try to stabilize with only the regular tear away that most sewists have been told is all they need. They rarely produce good results alone.

3--If you're experiencing outlines that don't line up with your design, the problem is generally

Embroidery Finishing

Never press or iron any embroidery on the right side. You will only flatten the stitches and risk causing the thread to appear too shiney. There's a big difference between lustre and shine!

To keep your embroidered designs beautiful and adding dimension to designs stitched with polyester embroidery thread, try holding a steam iron over the design--not touching it--then pressing on the back side using full steam while on a padded surface. You'll be amazed at what you see!

Polyester thread swells when moistened--remember this the next time you're threading a hand needle with your favorite poly thread. If you're used to putting the end of the thread in your

your stabilizer.

mouth before inserting it in the eye of the needle--you're defeating your purpose. The thread will swell and be even harder to insert! Try cutting the end of the thread at an angle with sharp scissors instead.

We hope that these tips help you avoid some of the common mistakes most sewists experience.

[Home](#)



Super Solvy™

Heavier Water Soluble Stabilizer

Twice as thick, heavy and strong as the Original Sulky Solvy. A firm see-through Stabilizer that dissolves in water like magic! Perfect as a topping, pattern guide or as a backing stabilizer.

Ideal for:

- Monogramming
- Computerized Embroidery on Napped Fabrics
- Cut Work
- Lace Work
- Hand-turned Appliqué
- Quilting
- Fagotting
- 3-D Appliqué
- Edge Work and more!

Now available on convenient, personal rolls for quick use with minimum wastage, when doing computerized embroidery and monogramming.

Size 8" x 9 yds.

Item # 405-08

Suggested Retail

\$14.99 US

Size 12" x 9 yds.

Item # 405-12

Suggested Retail

\$19.99 US

Package Contains:

- Instructions for usage
- Super Solvy
- Size 20" x 36" Item # 405-01
- Suggested Retail \$3.99
- 25 yd. Bolt 20" wide Item # 405-25
- Suggested Retail \$93.76

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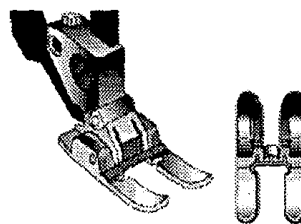
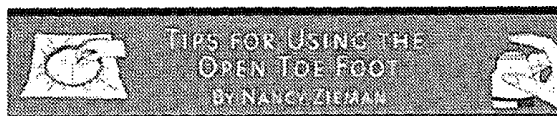
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"Sewing With Nancy Project of the Month" created exclusively for Pfaff by Nancy Zieman and "Sewing with Nancy"



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When you're doing decorative stitching, having a clear view of the stitching area is important.

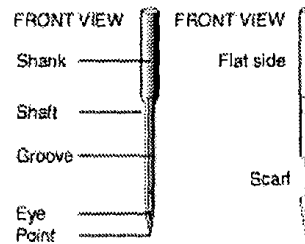
However, a conventional presser foot sometimes covers or blocks some or all of the stitching area. In addition, with dense satin stitching, it's sometimes difficult to get the fabric to feed through the machine smoothly. Pfaff's Open Toe Foot provides an easy answer to both dilemmas. This specialty foot offers greater visibility, and you'll find that stitches won't bunch up as you sew. Use the two widths of Pfaff's Open Toe Foot to aid in creating sensational decorative stitching and beautifully even satin stitching.

Characteristics of the Open Toe Foot:

- The traditional front support between the "toes" is eliminated, giving additional viewing space.
- The underside is grooved, allowing stitches to easily pass under the foot.
- Pfaff's Open Toe Foot is available in 6 mm and 9 mm widths, giving you even more room for creativity.

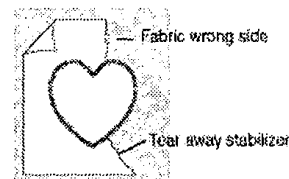
✳ 1. Adjust the sewing machine for decorative stitching

- Insert a Machine Embroidery Needle. This needle has a specially designed needle scarf and eye which help eliminate thread fraying or breakage.

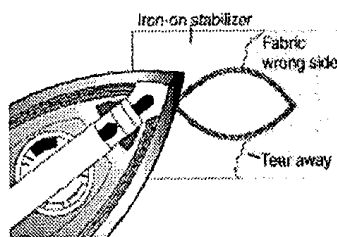


- Thread the needle with rayon embroidery thread for added sheen and luster, or use a cotton embroidery thread for a softer, more subtle look.
- Use Pfaff's Black or White Prewound Bobbincot Bobbin in the bobbin case. These lightweight bobbin threads reduce bulk and help draw the needle thread to the underside of the fabric. This prevents the bobbin thread from showing on the right side of the fabric.
- Loosen the top tension by two numbers or notches.
- Back the fabric with stabilizer. A stabilizer is a key element when doing decorative stitching. A stabilizer provides extra support and stability, helps improve stitch quality, and reduces puckering and slipping. Choose an appropriate stabilizer for your project. -

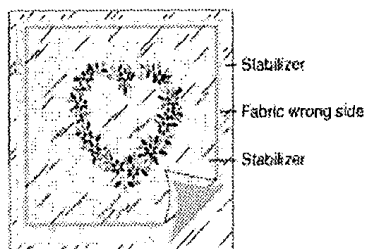
Tear-away stabilizers (for example, Pellon® Stitch-N-Tear®, Swedish Tear Away, and Stitch & Ditch) work best on medium weight woven fabrics. Place the stabilizer on the underside of the fabric. After stitching the design, tear away the stabilizer.



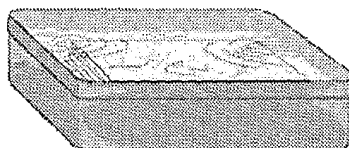
- Iron on stabilizers such as Totally Stable Iron On Stabilizer are suited for knit or woven fabrics. Iron the stabilizer onto the wrong side of the fabric; a wax-like adhesive temporarily adheres to the fabric. Stitch the design, then tear away the stabilizer.



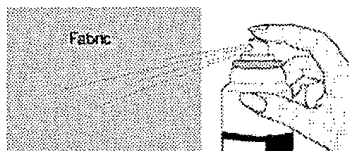
- Water soluble stabilizers (for example, Avalon® by Madeira and Pellon® Sol-u-Web™) can be placed on top of or under fabrics. After stitching designs, tear or cut away the majority of the stabilizer. Remove any remaining stabilizer by soaking the fabric in water. Water soluble stabilizers are especially suited for delicate stitching or light colored fabrics where stabilizer remaining in the design would be visible.



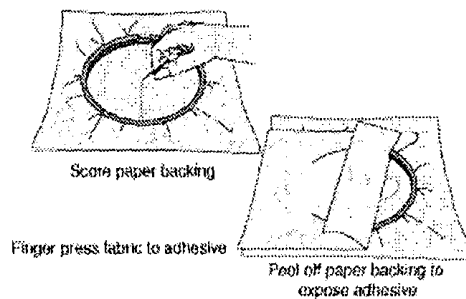
- Liquid stabilizers such as Perfect Sew can be used only on washable fabrics. Apply the stabilizer to the fabric and let it dry. After stitching the design, remove the stabilizer by washing or immersing the fabric in water.



- Spray on stabilizers such as Stiffen Stuff or spray starch make it easy to control the amount of stabilization. Apply and dry the stabilizer; after stitching, remove it by laundering.



- Adhesive-backed stabilizer such as Filmoplast Stic Stabilizer is effective for napped fabrics and sueded leathers. It allows you to add decorative stitching without leaving hoop marks. Insert the stabilizer in the hoop; peel away part of the paper backing, exposing the adhesive. Finger press the fabric to the adhesive; stitch; and remove the fabric from the backing.



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Bunny Towel



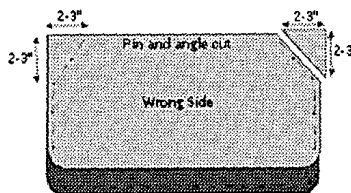
Nancy Zieman

Bath cover-ups are fun to make. The magic starts with a bath towel, a matching washcloth, and a few simple embellishments. Patterns for the bunny's facial features are included at the end of the article.

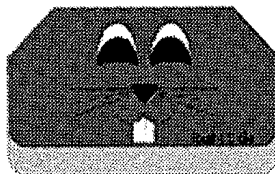
Supplies:

- Bath towel and matching washcloth
- Scraps for appliqué details: 1-1/2" X 5" (3.8 cm x 12.5 cm) black; 7" x 8" (18 cm x 20.5 cm) pink; 11" x 13" (28 cm x 33 cm) white for ears, and 1-1/2" x 4" (3.8 cm x 10 cm) white for teeth and eyes
- 1/4 yard (0.25 m) Fusible Interfacing
- EZE-View Press Cloth
- Fray Check
- 1/2 yard (0.50 m) jewelry wire for ears
- Madeira Rayon Machine Embroidery Thread, or Sulky Embroidery Thread
- Pellon Sol-u-Web
- Open Toe Foot
- Stitch & Ditch Stabilizer
- HeatnBond® Lite Iron-On Adhesive
- The Fine Line Erasable Marking Pen
- Tracing paper or Pattern Paper

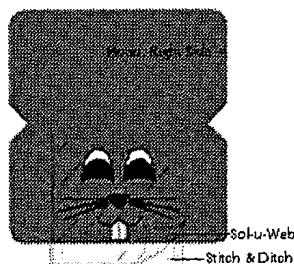
1. Shape the hood by folding the washcloth, right sides together, extending one edge 1" (2.5 cm).
 - Pin 1/4" (6 mm) seam allowances at the side seams.
 - Measure and mark 2" to 3" (5 cm to 7.5 cm) from the corner folds, and pin along the diagonal marks. Angle cut 1/4" (6 mm) from the pins. Apply Fray Check along the cut edges.



2. Make appliqués and fuse them to the hood.
 - Trace the eyes, nose, and teeth on the paper side of HeatnBond Lite Iron-On Adhesive. Cut out the shapes slightly larger than the traced lines.
 - Meet the fusible side of the HeatnBond® Lite Iron-On Adhesive to the wrong side of the facial features fabric; fuse. Cut out the shapes; remove the paper backing.
 - Turn the hood right side out; position and pin the appliqués in place.



- Remove the pins so the washcloth is flat. Cover the appliqués with a damp EZE-View Press Cloth; fuse.
 - Cover the facial area with a layer of Pellon® Sol-u-Web, pin in place. Mark the whiskers and mouth placement with The Fine Line Erasable Marking Pen.
3. Stitch the appliqués on the hood.
 - Place a layer of Stitch & Ditch Stabilizer underneath the appliqué area.
 - Attach an open toe embroidery/appliqué foot.
 - Thread the top of the machine with embroidery thread. Loosen the top tension by two notches or numbers so the bobbin thread remains on the underside of the fabric.
 - Set the machine for a short stitch length and a medium width satin stitch.
 - Satin stitch the appliqué edges. Stitch around twice for better coverage. Remove the stabilizers.

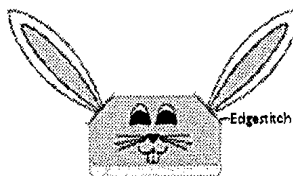


4. Add the bunny ears.

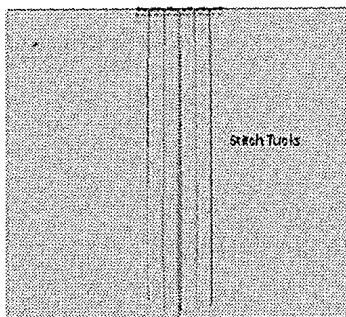
- Cut and interface four white bunny ears.
- Interface the pink fabric, then cut into two 3-1/2" x 9" (9 cm x 23 cm) rectangles. Fuse HeatnBond® Lite Iron-On Adhesive to the interfaced side of one pink rectangle. Fuse the interfaced sides of the pink rectangles together, meeting the 9" (23 cm) edges. Cut two pink inner bunny ears.
- Cut the wire in two. Turn back the wire ends 1/4" to 1/2" (6 mm to 1.3 cm) so the sharp tips are not exposed.
- Position a pink ear on each white ear with a wire sandwiched in between, and satin stitch the pink ears in place.



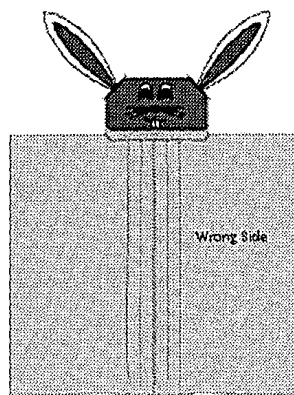
- Back each ear with a second white ear, wrong sides together. Satin stitch around the outer edges.
5. Stitch the side seams to finish the hood.
- Refold the wash cloth, right sides together; stitch 1/4" (6 mm) side seams leaving the diagonal corners unstitched. Turn right side out.
 - Tuck in the corner edges 1/4" (6 mm); insert the ears; edgestitch the ears in place.



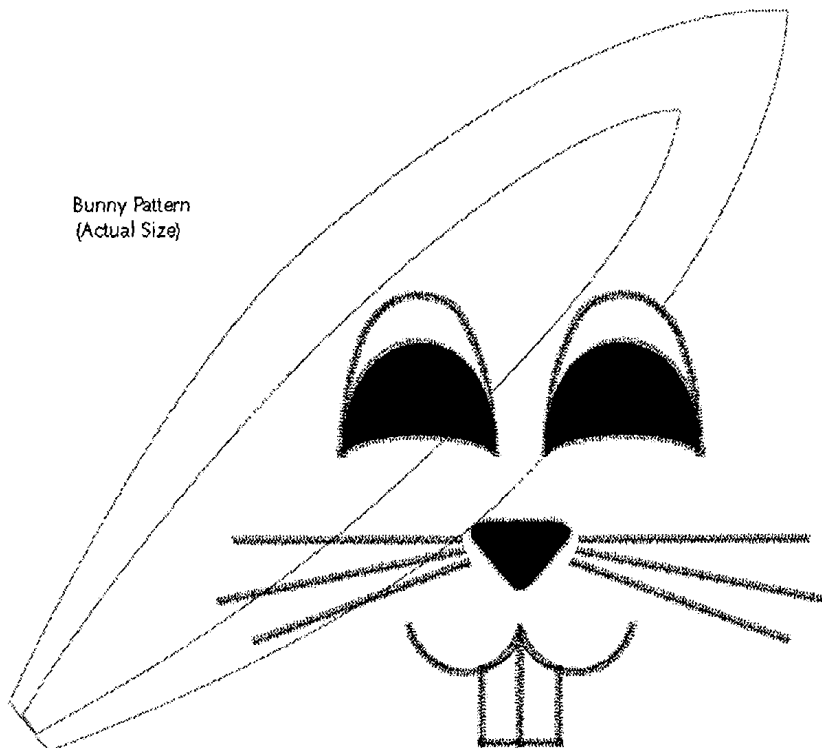
6. Join the hood to the towel.
- Fold the towel, aligning the short ends, and mark the center at one edge.
 - Measure and fold three 1" (2.5 cm) tucks on each side of the center mark; fold the tucks toward the center. Machine stitch across the tucks.



- Overlap the right side of the hood extension on the wrong side of the upper edge of the towel, aligning the centers.
- Edgestitch the towel to the washcloth. Stitch a second time, along the washcloth edge.



Bunny Pattern
(Actual Size)



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Hirsch International Corp.
PRESS RELEASES

Date of Release: 09/04/2001

Title: Hirsch International Distributes Pellon Product Line

Details: Hirsch International's parts and supplies division - ESW - will now be distributing a full line of embroidery backing and stabilizers by Pellon. Pellon's new expanded line meets the needs of virtually any embroidery professional by offering quality backing for specific applications. Pellon products are packaged for users of consumer embroidery machines and commercial embroiderers requiring smaller amounts of backing and toppings. Most products are packaged in rolls that are 12 inches wide by 10 yards long.

Stitch-N-Tear is a tear-away backing that gives support to light to medium weight fabrics .

Sof-Stitch is a cut-way backing that provides the utmost support for large, high stitch count designs or embroidery on heavy weight fabrics.

Tear-N-Wash is a unique backing that tears off in any direction, while excess backing washes away when the item is laundered.

Stitch-N-Tear Lite is a light tear away backing available in black or white to prevent show through, perfect for lightweight woven and knit fabrics.

Sol-U-Web is a clear water soluble stabilizer, temporary adhesive, or an embroidery topping. Once stitching is complete it washes away!

Embroidery Supply Warehouse is a division of Hirsch International. For more information on these products contact ESW at 800-883- 3799 or 631-436- 7100 or visit our web site at:
www.eswarehouse.com.

Hirsch International Corporation
Lisa Muller - Director of Marketing
200 Wireless Blvd. Box 18004, Hauppauge, NY 11788
Phone: (631) 436-7100 Fax: (631) 436-7792

If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Hanson at 1-800-394-4426

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New-Fangled Necessities

Juanita Robinson

Stitches, May 1, 1998

There is no way around the fact that the embroidery supplies market is in a continuous state of change. Keeping abreast of the latest technology can mean the difference between a booming business and barely paying the bills. Backings are becoming more specialized, needles are stronger, hooping systems are more user-friendly and thread is better in quality.

There are, however, two trends that we need to take note of: Embroiderers have grown more receptive to the use of polyester thread and when it comes to backings, they are steadily moving toward the use of cutaways.

What else is new in the marketplace? Let's take a stroll through the supplies market and browse through the new products our suppliers have to share with us.

Thread A good, quality embroidery thread not only makes an embroiderer's work possible, but it also makes it more appealing to the eye, and to be perfectly honest, worth more money. The embroidery thread market doesn't see a lot of new products over the course of a year, but every now and then a company introduces something embroiderers haven't seen before.

YLI Corp., Rock Hill, S.C., has a new metallic thread called Fine Metallic. It is available in 21 colors, and has a nylon core that is wrapped in rice paper. Unlike most aluminum metallic threads, this version is a silver alloy that is covered with a polyester film, which prevents it from tarnishing or rusting when washed.

Fine metallic thread sews like regular embroidery thread, so you won't encounter many of the common problems associated with the metallic variety, says Lanny Smith, a partner in the company. For example, it doesn't fray when it breaks. The thread is designed for use on machines that stitch up to 1,200 stitches per minute.

The company has also introduced a trilobal polyester thread. Along with being very strong, the trilobal thread has the sheen of rayon, says Smith. It is available on 1,000- and 5,000-meter cones.

YLI is particularly excited about Monet, its new 40-percent wool/60-percent acrylic embroidery thread. It has a fuzzy texture, and is available in 40 matte colors on 1,000-yard spools. "(Embroiderers) are looking for new and different thread products to make their embroidery look different from the (shiny) rayon look," says Smith. And the introduction of Monet reflects that trend. Smith adds that the market is moving towards more natural, dimensional embroidery. Although there are quite a few products out there that add dimension, such as foam, Smith predicts that different threads are going to lead the way. "Thread (can be) interesting and dimensional on its own."

Hammer Brothers Inc., Kansas City, Mo., recently introduced the rayon Top 40 pack-40 of the top-selling thread colors from Robison-Anton Textile Co., Fairview, N.J., in 1,100-yard mini king spools.

Gunold + Stickma of America Inc., Kennesaw, Ga., has introduced a new cone for its Stickma-Poly™ polyester thread line. This new design reportedly keeps the thread from falling off of the cone and eliminates the need to use a cone plate. It also allows the user to snap the base off, put the end of the thread in and push it back on so the end of the thread can be easily found. The thread is available in 40 weight in 130 colors.

The growing popularity of polyester thread is an obvious trend in the embroidery industry. Although polyester has always offered strength, durability and fade resistance, the new generation of threads also offers high sheen, lower elasticity and a wider selection of colors.

Rayon thread still outsells the polyester variety, but polyester is finding a comfortable place in the embroidery industry, says Colleen Hartigan, sales manager, Madeira USA Ltd., Laconia, N.H. Embroiderers are becoming more receptive to trying polyester thread because the negatives once associated with it have been eliminated. But Hartigan cautions that this is only the case with quality polyester embroidery thread. Buyers beware as cheap threads are out there.

Bill Sears Jr., vice president of sales for Filtex Inc., Montreal, Que., sees yet another embroidery path emerging. "I think there's going to be a trend toward a lot of detail in women's clothing for fall 1999," he says. It will be more elegant—a lot of embroidery with metallic threads and lace.

Backings & Toppings Nobody would argue that embroidery toppings and backings have come a long way since the days of Kraft paper, dry cleaner bags, paper towels and waxed paper. The biggest change is how backings and toppings have become so specialized. There is now a selection of backings perfectly suited for pique, T-shirts, fleece and any number of materials we work with on a daily basis.

Cutaways, especially, are one type of backing that is steadily gaining popularity among embroiderers. "They are (also) looking for backings that are less intrusive, like Aquafilm," says Daniel Hammer, marketing/sales manager for Hammer Brothers. "(Aquafilm works well) because it washes away."

Despite their growing popularity, the new backings hitting the market are far from confined to cutaways. The new products in this area cover a wide range of applications and technology. John Solomon Inc., Somerville, Mass., for example, introduced a soft tearaway that is available in 2-ounce and 2.5-ounce versions. The major difference between this and other tearaways on the market is that once it's perforated by the needle, it tears as easily in the middle as it does at the edges, says Fred Lebow, vice president of nonwovens.

Handler Textile Corp., Stone Mountain, Ga., also has a couple of new backings. One backing, Thermal Stick, is fusible on one side and pressure sensitive on the other, while Press & Tear is a 1.5-ounce, pressure-sensitive tearaway backing.

According to Mack Weaver, Handler Textile's director of embroidery products, embroiderers are using more cutaways than in the past because the new cutaways help the embroidered area stand up better after washing. He also sees lightweight backings becoming less popular because in the past, embroiderers often had to use two pieces to get the stability they needed. In the end, it's all a result of embroiderers becoming more educated about what's available to them, he says.

Emblematic Fabrics & Textiles, Hoboken, N.J., recently introduced its new, water-soluble topping. The biggest difference between their product and others is that it's made in the United States, says company president Steve Deutsch. The water-soluble topping comes in a 40-inch width on 275-yard, 110-yard and 550-yard rolls. It can also be cut to size.

Emblematic has also introduced three new cutaways. All are wet-laid, combed to give them a soft hand and are offered in 2.3, 2.9 and 3.5 ounces.

Finding one backing that's suitable for every need is becoming more and more difficult because today's market is moving toward very specialized backings—a tough change for small embroiderers. "The small user can't afford to buy a different backing every time (he does) a job," Deutsch says. "You really have to test it for the application at hand before you buy it. The simple fact is that one embroiderer may think that a particular backing is great for T-shirts, while another hates it. Technique, design and stitch count all need to be taken into consideration.

New to The Embroidery Store, Greensboro, N.C., a Macpherson Meistergram company, is a 3-ounce, heavyweight tearaway backing that is designed specifically for caps. It is precut to 3 3/4-inch width, and comes in 250-yard rolls.

The company also has an adhesive tearaway backing, Filmoplast. It's used for fabrics that can't be hooped, such as velour, suede, leather, silk and velvet. It can also be used for cap panel programs, pocket panels and collars. The adhesive is specially designed so it will not adhere to the needles or sewing hooks, says Bill Fenimore, manager of The Embroidery Store. The tearaway is also available in a double-sided, self-adhesive version, Gudy Stick, which allows the user to applique without using a spray adhesive. It will reportedly not stain, and has a 24-inch width and comes on a 27-yard roll.

Madiera goes in another direction with its brand new melt-away topping. It will disintegrate with minimal heat from an iron, and is available in two thicknesses.

Hartigan has her own ideas about why embroiderers are moving towards cutaways. A major driving force, she says, is that cutaways are now less expensive and available in everything from a lightweight polyester mesh to extra-heavy versions.

"In the olden days there weren't as many options, so they went to a tearaway," Hartigan explains. In response to this trend, the company is also introducing a thicker cutaway. It is a competitively-priced, very soft, extra-heavy backing that works well for fleece, she says.

Embroidery Supply Warehouse, Hauppauge, N.Y., has introduced its version of a melt-away topping, Hybilon. It reportedly behaves much like the water-soluble variety, but with several added advantages. Hybilon completely dissolves when exposed to the heat of an iron, eliminating the need for laundering or steaming the stitches. The company also reports that it prevents the stitches from fading into the fabric, and raises them for better appearance. The topping is available in 39.5-yard by 275-yard rolls.

Super Stick-dSolve(TM) from Hoop-It-All, Prescott Valley, Ariz., is also brand new to the market this month. It is a water-soluble, medium-tack adhesive film. This dissolvable film works well on sheers and see-through fabrics, or whenever the back of the fabric will be revealed, such as with scarves, collars, lapels and purse flaps. It can also be used in many applications, including fine embroidery, cutwork, heirloom, applique, sewing and quilting. It is more stable, has less stretch and will dissolve in water in 10 seconds to three minutes, depending on the water temperature.

Embroiderers often complain water-soluble backings are too thin, but this film is much easier to handle, says Don Rowley, president of Hoop-It-All. He says the film behaves as if it's a thicker material than what it is. You can choose from 7-inch-wide rolls of 5, 10 or 20 feet or in 21-inch-wide rolls of 10 or 20 feet. The original version of the product will be available without the adhesive.

YLI Corp., has another new product called Magic, a water-soluble stabilizer. It is 47 inches wide. Most water-soluble stabilizers are only 40 inches, so Magic provides 20 percent more product for the same price, says Smith.

Hollingsworth & Vose, E. Walpole, Mass., has three new backings. Its 9925 is a 2.5-ounce black cutaway. It works well for dark garments because white fibers won't show through and there's no white patch against the dark fabric of the garment.

The company's new applique backing is fusible on one side and peel and stick on the other. Users simply cut out the applique and stick it on the garment.

Peel & Stick is a tearaway designed for hoopless embroidery. It's not a permanent fuse.

The use of cutaways has come back quite strong, says Jeanne Gibson, a marketing representative for the company. The use of more black cutaways on darker garments is also becoming more popular because embroiderers like the stability of a cutaway.

Needles The embroidery needle is a relatively uncomplicated thing to look at, but choosing the right one for the job is imperative to getting the result you want. And just to make the situation more confusing and intimidating, there is a needle for just about every application imaginable. Recently, however, needle suppliers have turned their sights toward offering these must-haves in the most user-friendly way possible.

Embroidery Supply Warehouse introduced its Embroidery Sampler Needle Kit. The kit includes 19 different types of needles, such as a metallic thread eye, leather point, doubly large eye and several different ball and regular point needles. There are 190 needles in all. It also comes with a sheet that explains what each needle is used for. The kit makes experimentation a lot easier and less expensive.

The biggest change is that embroiderers are more open to technology in needles than they were before, says Cliff Bolder, sales manager of Diamond Needle Corp., New York. For example, many of the higher production houses and even apparel manufacturers seem to be more receptive to the titanium nitride needle. Because they are running longer runs and relying heavily on automation, they're saving money. When the machine is down, they're losing money. Expensive automation means nothing if you continuously have to stop to replace needles, explains Bolder. While the challenge of creating a strong needle seems to be licked, the ideal needle for use with leather embroidery has proven more elusive. Neither embroiderers nor needle manufacturers have settled on which is the best for the job. Probably because there isn't one yet, Bolder says.

Embroiderers are very conservative when it comes to buying needles. "I've never understood why people put a \$100,000 mortgage on a machine, but won't put \$100 worth of needles on the shelf," he says.

Hooing Devices & Frames Let's face it, hooping isn't exactly the most enjoyable part of the embroidery process. It can be hard, even painful work. Luckily, embroiderer-friendly hooping devices are constantly introduced that are designed to reduce the wear and tear on your body. The good news is holding power isn't sacrificed with a quality device.

Mirror Image Engineers, Woodland Hills, Calif., has introduced Magna framing system, a device that holds a variety of flat material, including the pockets on bags.

"It opens up a whole new spectrum for heavy materials like leathers and canvas," says Ron Inteso, president of the company. In the past it was too difficult to get a hoop inside a bag to hold it. It's now adaptable to just about every machine made and allows for continuous operation.

"Identifying company logos and people's names and teams is going to be more prevalent on sport bags," says Inteso. "They've found ways to do it, and I think they're going to be doing it more often."

The Pee-Wee DeLUX is designed for cap embroidery. It has magnetic and mechanical hold-down mechanisms that reportedly makes embroidering caps faster and easier. Pee-Wee is designed for small machines such as the Melco EP1 and Toyota.

Mirror Image prides itself on making ergonomically-friendly devices, and because embroiderers are still getting carpal tunnel syndrome, perhaps industry efforts need to be improved, says Inteso. "I think we should all continue to strive to improve on ergonomics."

In addition to new backings, Rowley's company is also making its Hoop-It-All™ in larger versions-9-, 10- and 12-inch sewing fields. It can actually be manufactured in any size by special order. They are available for all domestic machines, in addition to Melco, Toyota, Tajima and Meistergram (800 model).

Crafts By Ron Inc., Houston, has also added some new additions to its line-the Accupress hooping machine. This device features a dual-cylinder design, quick-change heads and bases, free-arm tubular tables, totally flat operation for unfinished garments and adjustable, tubular hoop stops. It is compact-will fit on your tabletop-and reportedly averages less than 30 seconds per hooping in both tubular and flat operation. The Accupress is designed to make hooping faster and to eliminate damage to hands, wrists and forearms due to repeated hooping.

The company also has Quick Change Brackets for use with The Aliner hooping system. No screws are necessary. Brackets snap into the desired holes. Clips were added to hold the backing in place. A front retainer is another new addition to The Aliner to prevent it from sliding backward during the framing process. For those who already own the system, a conversion kit, with the brackets and front retainer, is available.

The Advantage cap frame from Macpherson Meistergram can be used for any type of cap. It was originally designed for the Barudan embroidery machine, but was recently fitted for use with the Meistergram machine.

This & That As is sometimes painfully clear in life, not everything fits into a neat little category. This catch-all section features various products that don't fall into traditional supply categories, but are just as useful.

Adhesive sprays can take a lot of the aggravation out of such necessary tasks like hooping and applique. The Embroidery Store has a new adhesive spray, Quik Tack, for use on difficult-to-hoop items, such as tackle twill, applique and chenille. It is environmentally friendly and has little odor.

Madeira also carries two similar products, A.T.P. 505 and Bemis 5250. Among other things, A.P.T. 505 allows the positioning of difficult-to-work-with materials, such as velvet, satin or silk without framing, which avoids hoop burn. Bemis 5250 is a 5-millimeter polyester adhesive that produces a permanent seal on patches and applique. Apply it with a heat seal press at 300 to 375 degrees Fahrenheit. The product's low melting temperature also means the film can be used to produce temporary bonds for

applique. The product will reportedly hold up well after laundering or dry cleaning. It is available in 46-inch, 23-inch and 15-inch widths in 100 yards, 25 yards and 5 yards.

The company also has a lubricant, LB5, that can be of great use to embroiderers.

New materials on the market allow embroiderers to take creativity to new heights, without using extra time for experimentation. Chenille-It applique fabric from Hammer Brothers, for example, is designed to look like chenille. It can be purchased by the yard or die-cut with a pre-digitized package. It is 18 inches wide and is available in black, white, maroon, red, orange, silver, gold, forest, kelly, purple, royal, Columbia blue and navy. It allows the embroiderer to use chenille without the chenille machine.

The company has also introduced its embroidery Tool Box. The Tool Box includes: 24 rayon mini king spools of thread in assorted colors, one digitized design by Great Notions, six packages of needles by Schmetz and Organ-sizes 11, 11BP and 12, one pair of embroidery curved-tip scissors, one pair of disposable thread clippers, one can of Sprayway #22 adhesive, one can of Sprayway silicone spray, 100 pieces of medium tearaway backing and 100 pieces of Super-Heavy cutaway backing-both are 8 inches by 8 inches.

Another product worth mentioning is Madeira's Color Definition Package. This program allows embroidery and ad specialty people to show customers a scanned-in or loaded design of a stock design or their logo. They can play with the color by shading or making drastic color changes instead of doing a sewout. Users pick the stitch types, and the program determines how many stitches it will take to do the job. Embroiderers can give their customers accurate quotes using the system. In addition, 500 stock designs are included.

Hoop-It-All also has Cover-Up(TM), a colored, permanent, thin-woven stabilizer film made of plastic vinyl. This product can be used on the embroidery hoop either under the fabric, or placed on the top and bottom before embroidering to prevent fabric show-through. The film makes piling up the density or using a thicker thread unnecessary, says Rowley. It is available in several colors, including a clear version. It comes with release paper to protect the adhesive until it's used. The film is available by the roll or in a variety pack of 25 pieces (three each of white, black, red, blue, orange, green, yellow and four clear).

Foam will become more popular in the future, Deutsch predicts. People have shied away from it in the past because they feel it's too expensive and oftentimes they're not sure about the proper technique. Foam itself isn't expensive, but people get frustrated during the learning process. As a result, the cost factor goes up, reflecting the time spent on a foam project. In the end, the customer simply doesn't want to pay for an embroiderer's inexperience. Since its introduction, however, embroiderers have been interested in using the technique, and with the advent of a variety of classes, videotapes, seminars and articles on the subject, embroiderers are finding it a lot easier to learn the ins and outs of using foam in their work.

Embroidery Supply Warehouse has also added Sports Twill to its line, a new product designed for patches, varsity letters, custom logos and various other design applications on athletic wear. It is 100-percent polyester and is coated with a heat-activated backing. The company reports the twill will not fade or shrink from normal washing and dry cleaning. It is available in a variety of colors, including white, red, black, gold and royal blue. Choose from 12-inch by 12-inch pieces or 50-inch by 3-yard rolls.

Most embroiderers are adventurous people who aren't afraid of trying new things, but there are a few

who shy away from the unknown. Unfortunately, getting into a tug-of-war with the embroidery technology of the 21st century could have an adverse effect on your business. Don't be afraid to try an unfamiliar backing, needle or hooping device. A little healthy experimentation is good for the soul.

(Sources listed are those included in this story. For a complete listing of embroidery supply companies, see the Stitches Magazine 1998 Buyer's Guide.)

Crafts By Ron Inc. Houston (281) 820-3903 Reader Service No. 486

Diamond Needle Corp. New York City (212) 929-2277 Reader Service No. 485

Emblematic Fabrics & Textiles Hoboken, N.J. (201) 420-8177 Reader Service No. 484

The Embroidery Store Greensboro, N.C. (910) 294-5165 Reader Service No. 483

Embroidery Supply Warehouse Hauppauge, N.Y. (516) 231-9393 Reader Service No. 482

Filtex Inc. Montreal, Que. (514) 274-3544 Reader Service No. 481

Gunold + Stickma of America Inc. Kennesaw, Ga. (770) 421-0300 Reader Service No. 480

Hammer Brothers Inc. Kansas City, Mo. (816) 842-7290 Reader Service No. 479

Handler Textile Corp. Stone Mountain, Ga. (770) 938-7014 Reader Service No. 478

Hollingsworth & Vose Co. E. Walpole, Mass. (540) 745-9600 Reader Service No. 477

Hoop-It-All Inc. Prescott Valley, Ariz. (520) 775-6604 Reader Service No. 476

John Solomon Inc. Somerville, Mass. (617) 666-4411 Reader Service No. 475

Madeira USA Ltd. Laconia, N.H. (603) 528-2944 Reader Service No. 474

Mirror Image Engineers Woodland Hills, Calif. (818) 876-9199 Reader Service No. 473

YLI Corp. Rock Hill, S.C. 800-854-1932 Reader Service No. 472

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